

paper works

BY ELAINE LEE

The possibilities of paper as a creative material are so much more that it can only be limited by one's imagination. ELAINE LEE susses out some artists and designers who have found wondrous new ways to not just work it as an art form, but to use paper as well.

Paper is a banal material, common enough for most people to relate to, yet neutral enough to be given a new lease of life. Increasingly, paper as a material, comes to life in the hands of artists and designers, very much like bricks in the hands of architects. We look at the works of eight artists and designers, who create magic out of this discrete material. Be it to bring out the innate quality of the material; to create a vision out of its unique texture or simply to demonstrate strength out of its fragility – these beautiful works are testaments that paper can move out of its two-dimensional realm to realise its full potential in relief.



sounds of silence, germany

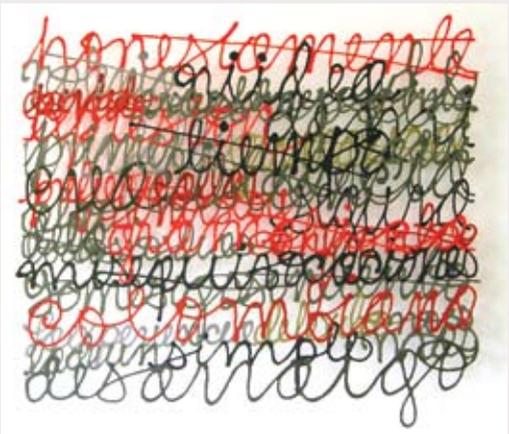
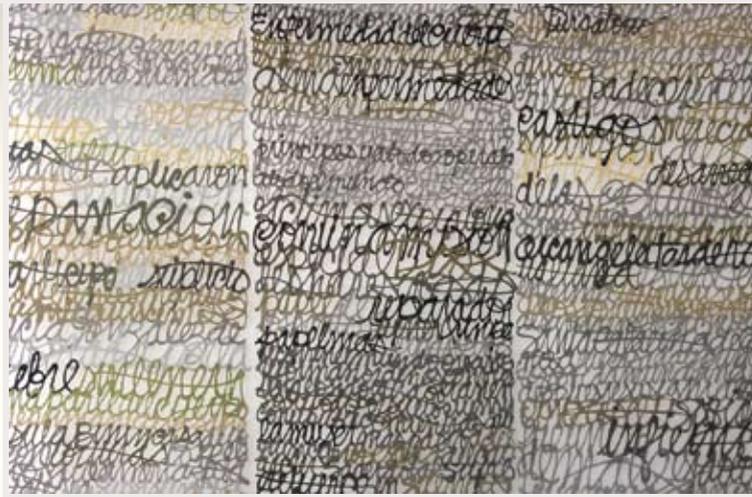
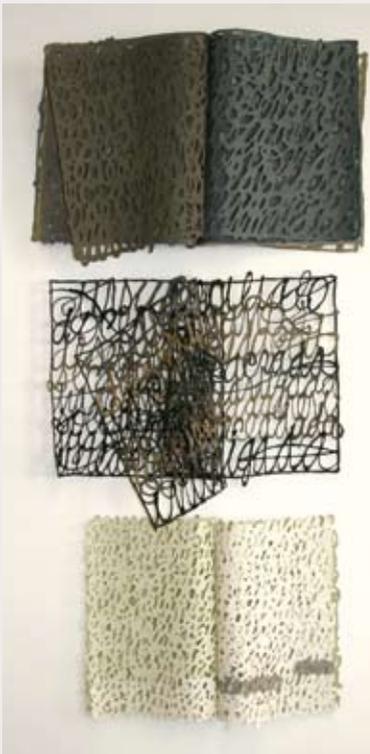
Architect Petra Eichler, together with artist and director Susanne Kessler, both based in Frankfurt, Germany, have collaborated on the Sounds of Silence installation depicting natural landscapes. Inaugurated in 2005, the installation is built of layers of white paper silhouettes, creating spaces in which silence becomes an experience in itself. Gold award winner of the IF communication design 2007 – corporate architecture section – Sounds of Silence explores the multiple qualities of silence and creates an environment in which the experience of silence is possible through a series of audio-visual installations. Working with light and sound artists, the installation immerses visitors in an atmospheric space. Exploring different qualities of silence to create experiential atmospheres out of audio-visual objects and environments, visitors can move through the installation leisurely. www.soundsosilence.de





violise lunn, denmark

Violise Lunn, born in 1969, graduated as a fashion designer in 1995, from the Design School of Design in Denmark. Apart from designing and making one-of-a-kind pieces of clothing for women, her other passions includes making works of art out of paper. To the artist, paper is the simplest textile of all. She finds freedom in her choice of material which she uses to sculpt silhouettes and shoes, reflecting what these objects represent. Paper allows her to play with otherwise impossible compositions, utilising its unique quality of lightness and fragility. www.violise.dk



mariam londoño, the netherlands

Mariam graduated in 1978 with a degree in Fine Arts from the University of Antioquia in Medellin, Colombia. Her passion for papermaking followed through her residency in Buenos Aires, Poland and Thailand. Creating handwriting out of paper pulp, the artist developed a technique that allows her to write out stretches of script, using cotton and linen linters. Turning the blank canvas into handwriting, she explores negative spaces and establishes a new relationship between paper and the written word. Selectively varying legibility, colours and spacing, Mariam's work retains the calligraphic quality of the written word, allowing more than one reading of profound text adapted from personal testimonies or rescued memories from institutions such as prison cells, convents and hospices. www.miriamlondono.com



chris natrop, usa

Chris graduated in 1993 from the Art Institute of Chicago, with a Bachelor degree in Fine Arts. Using landscape as language, his artform is an evolution from his love of charcoal on paper, which he started trimming to achieve desired edges. The trimmings gave his works added contrast, enhanced by suspending from the wall. Guided by sub-consciousness, the artist now cuts directly with a utility knife to tease out unseen forces that quietly permeate every day life. The evolution from drawing creates three-dimensional installations that are spontaneous and free, devoid of specificity offering infinite interpretations of the artwork. Yielding to the influence of the unknown, the installations crystallise elements into fully formed environments. www.chrisnatrop.com



su blackwell, uk

Su creates paper landscapes that feature nature and literary classics like *The Secret Garden* and *Alice in Wonderland*. Paper to the artist is a communicative medium. Subjecting the delicate material to irreversible and destructive processes, her works reflect the fragility of life, dreams and ambitions. Her paper landscapes capture flora, fauna and characters in a state of flux, emerging out of books to release the trapped enchantment from within. Working with paper as a medium, Su explored other platforms such as set design and stop motion to bring added dimension to her art. www.sublackwell.co.uk



elisabeth lecourt, uk

Elisabeth Lecourt, born in Oloron Saint Marie, France in 1972, graduated from The Royal College of Art, London with a Masters degree in Art. Currently based in London, the artist creates using a range of materials to provoke and extract emotions. In 2002, she started a series of studies and sketches, which developed into her collection *Les Robes Géographiques*, where maps form clothes and garments as an imprint of the body and soul. Elisabeth forces the maps to take the shapes of clothing, relating to habitat and identity to form an intimate connection with the wearer. www.elisabethlecourt.com



catherine hammerton, uk

Catherine Hammerton graduated from The Royal College of Art, London, in 2005 with a Masters degree in Mixed Media Textile Design. Defined by a handmade aesthetic, her works are often a collage of fabrics, papers, colours and textures that engage traditional silk screen printing, hand stitching as much as cutting edge technology. Catherine's work explores her intuitive appreciation and approach to colour, texture and finish. Based in London, the designer-maker has moved from bespoke wallpapers that are multi-textural yet functional to challenge traditional scale and technical application with her much anticipated range of Prêt-à-Porter wallpaper available at Maison et Objet from January 2008.

www.catherinehammerton.com



molo design, canada

Stephanie Forsythe and Todd MacAllen are the architecturally trained designers behind molo design's soft collection. soft is a collection of flexible honeycomb seating, walls, building blocks, that has grown to include entirely enclosed rooms and housing -all expandable and collapsible. The collection started with the award-winning paper and textile softwall space partition, which originated from the desire for flexible and spontaneous space-making. Available in paper and kraft paper, soft has since developed to include a range in water and tear-resistant, non-woven textile material. The collection features lightweight and readily recyclable materials that reflect age elegantly. The strength of the honeycomb geometry does not only offer economy of material resource, but even as the surface of the material softens, the product maintains its structural integrity. www.molodesign.com

